

NOTE XII.

DESCRIPTION OF A SHREW FROM SURINAM

BY

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In my "Catalogue systématique des Mammifères, T. XII, 1888, p. 131" I recorded a small shrew from Surinam under the specific title *pyrrhonota*; till now the animal waits for a description. It seems that Shrews are very rare animals in Surinam, as I nowhere could hunt out another mentioned specimen; as far as I am aware the only Surinam-shrew has been exhibited by Lin. Gmelin, T. I, 1789, p. 114, under the name *Sorex surinamensis*. It is a pity that the history of our specimen is entirely unknown and the locality Surinam so very vague; this may be as it is, the shrew however differs from all hitherto described species, and I will describe it now under the well appropriate name bestowed upon it in 1888:

Blarina pyrrhonota Jentink.

Dentition: i. $\frac{4-4}{2-2}$, c. $\frac{1-1}{0-0}$, p. $\frac{2-2}{1-1}$, m. $\frac{3-3}{3-3} = 32$.

Upper jaw: 2nd and 3rd incisor on the same level with the posterior cusp of the anterior incisor; 4th incisor a trifle smaller and lower; canine half the size of incisors 2 and 3; anterior premolar about half the size of the posterior incisor.

Lower jaw: anterior incisor with three strongly developed cusps; second incisor on the same level with the premolar, the latter however broader and less pointed.

Notes from the Leyden Museum, Vol. XXXII.

All the teeth heavily tipped with dark chestnut.

The posterior part of the skull being smashed I cannot give measurements of it. Very striking is the long and slender angular process of the lower jaw, still more slender than the same part f. i. in our common shrew.

Length of head and body about 80 mm., that of tail without pencil about 36 mm., pencil 4 mm., hind foot 13.5 mm.

Upperparts of head and body of a beautiful mahogany brown, the base of the hairs of a bluish black; this fine color of the back grows lighter along the flanks to pass over on the belly in a much lighter brownish shade, the base of the hairs, however, are of the mentioned bluish black color. Tail of a brown color, ending in a blackish brown pencil. All the hairs of head and body very soft and rather short, those of the tail adpressed and rather stiff; the pencil decidedly stiff.
